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And so on through the whole book. Dulness, benevolence, prolixity, with here and there a tolerable story, and a few sensible remarks, — a little physiology, — a little comparative anatomy, — a little metaphysics — a great deal of skimble-skamble stuff, — and you have finished the first fraction of Mr. Mudie's quadruple infliction.

We, whose duty it is to go through these dense and unwedgeable masses of print, like a pod-auger, — boring and bored, — must show the chips we bring away fairly and fully to the public. In the present instance, we must needs report that the book is done by the job, — conscientiously and with the best of motives, no doubt; the author firmly believing, that he can serve both God and Mammon in the same duodecimo. It is not our fault, that he has no more capacity for the subjects which he handles; and, dearly as we love the booksellers, the truth must be told, though it should condemn "The Heavens" to fall — ninety-nine per cent., "The Seasons" to remain stationary on the counters, and "Man" to become the slave of grocers and trunk-makers.

Independently of these general remarks, we may indulge in one or two suggestions as to the style of this little work. As punctuation is but a small item in the expense of getting up a work, it may be well in the future duodecimos to insert a period occasionally in the midst of a page, and embellish the word which follows, with a capital. Except in contracts and similar pieces of composition, we do not like to hear people called "the parties," — a word to which Mr. Mudie has a partiality that smacks of some previous employment. It is not proper to use such words as "adaptorial" and "transmogriker," nor, in the present advanced state of civilization, is it any longer considered original or genteel to exclaim,

"O for a lodge in some vast wilderness," &c.

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9. — *The Life of William Cowper, Esq.* By ROBERT SOUTHEY, LL. D., Poet Laureate, etc. In two Volumes. Boston: Otis, Broaders, & Co. 1839. 12mo. pp. 329, 360.

WE have already noticed this *Life* at some length, in connexion with a general review of Cowper's character.* We refer to it now merely to express our satisfaction at seeing the *Life* separated from the works, and republished among

* See *North American Review*, Vol. XLIV. pp. 29, et seq.

us, in a convenient and agreeable form. The five volumes of Mr. Southey have been compressed into two. This will bring the work within the means of many, who would not have been able to procure it in the English edition. When such vast numbers of the most worthless productions of British pens are poured upon the country in cheap American reprints, it is an agreeable variety, and a propitious omen, to find that a work of such solid merit and manifold interest is sufficiently appreciated by what is called the reading public, to justify a publisher in sending it forth from the press in handsome style. Great credit is certainly due to the taste of the firm, to whom we are indebted for this and other excellent reprints.

10. — *The Library of American Biography*. Conducted by JARED SPARKS. Vol. X. Boston : Hilliard, Gray, & Co. 12mo. pp. 386.

MR. SPARKS has now completed his series (or his First Series, as we hope we may be permitted to call it,) of *American Biography*, and we know not where we should look for more exciting and varied interest, than in these volumes. Much valuable matter, connected with American history, has thus been secured from oblivion and preserved in an attractive form. The lives are without exception written with ability ; indeed some of the ablest pens in the country have been engaged in the work. The contributions of Mr. Sparks himself are among the most valuable. Whatever comes from him in the department of History or Biography, the public long ago had the best of reasons to anticipate, would bear the marks of thorough investigation, and present a finished model of literary composition.

The present volume contains the *Lives of Fulton, Warren, Hudson, and Marquette*. The *Life of Fulton* is an elaborate exposition of that great man's scientific attainments, with a narrative, neatly put together, of the simple events, which diversified his existence. The second is an animated history of the short but brilliant career of Dr. Joseph Warren, including a description of Bunker's Hill Battle. It is from the pen of Alexander Everett, whose name, it is perhaps needless to say, is closely connected with the best literature of the country.

The *Life of Hudson* is a well written statement of the little